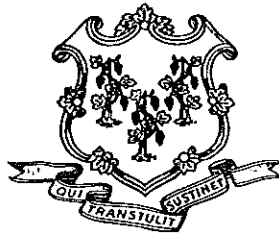


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March 18, 2014

Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and members of the Commerce Committee. I am here today to testify in support of SB 1, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE SUBSIDIZED TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE REMEDIATION OF STATE-OWNED BROWNFIELDS.

In the 2011 October special session on jobs, a bipartisan consensus bill created the Subsidized Training and Employment (STEP up) program. This program provides wage and training subsidies to employers that hire an unemployed jobseeker. The program includes two types of hiring incentives: 1). A wage subsidy, which helps pay a new employee's salary (up to \$12,000) for the first six months of employment and 2). A training grant that provides employers up to \$12,500 over 180-day period to train a new employee. It has been an extraordinary success and all of the funds allocated to it have been spent. SB 1 would add an additional \$10 million so that employers and employees can continue to benefit from this innovative program. I urge passage of this important legislation.